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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Shopping in Warsaw/Where to Buy Clothing/Prices/Leather  
Goods and Prices/Cosmetics and Toilet Articles/Prices/  
Where to Buy Food and Prices of Various FeedstuffsTHIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE  
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Clothing

## 1. "Clothing articles in Warsaw are purchased in the following places:

- a. State stores so-called DT or PDT (Powszechnie Domy Towarowe). The central state store in Warsaw is located on Aleje Jerozolimskie near the corner of Bracka Street. Another is on Pulawska Street, and two more exist in the Praga and Zeliborz suburbs. There is a separate Central Children's Store (Centralny Dom Dziecka) located in the former store of the Jablowski Brothers on Bracka Street. These shops, like most of the big state-owned stores, are noisy and overcrowded. The articles they offer are of low quality and very expensive.   some prices of clothing articles in these shops:

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Real silk for women's frocks, 1 meter	160	180 zlotys
Chinese silk for women	190	210 "
A nylon square scarf, Polish make (painted)	55	70 "
A silver fox	3,500	5,000 "

## Babies' clothes bought at the Central Children's Store:

Babies' diapers, 1 piece	7	9 zlotys
" vest	7	12 "
" mattee, [strolling] jacket and cap (40% wool)		42 "
" leggings	35	43 "

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(Incidentally: in the same Children's Store the price of a pram is from 650 to 1,200 zlotys, a baby's cot - 360-450 zlotys, and a baby's mattress - 100 to 240 zlotys approximately.)

b. MHD shops (Miejski Handel Detaliczyn). These are the shops run by the National City Council, and they are divided into various branches of commerce and scattered all over the city. Some of them specialize in the sale of textiles, ready-made clothes and haberdashery. A special kind of MHD stores sell goods on commission from private sellers. There one can obtain some very good secondhand clothing articles, and also some things sent to people in Poland from abroad, which they resell at a profit.

c. 'CEPELIA' - or CPLA (Centrala Przemyslu Ludowo Artystycznego) - Center of Folks Art Industry. Its main shop located in the MDM district (Marszallowska Dzielnica Mieszkaniowa), has a good dressmaking workshop in which a woman who can afford it can have a suit or a frock made of good material. The materials are mainly 'export rejects' or textiles sent back from international fairs (Leipzig etc.). The staff is highly expert and works most satisfactorily, but is very badly paid. Dressmakers work for 12 hours a day. An expert cutter earns from 900 to 1,200 zlotys a month, and she is paid by piece. Prices of clothing made in this shop are as follows:

1. A lady's suit (pure wool, very beautiful)	2,000	3,000 zlotys
2. A lady's coat of a similar material	900	1,500 "
3. A frock made of lightweight wool or silk mixture	1,000	

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d. Cooperatives: There are tailors' and dressmakers' cooperatives which also make clothes on the client's order. One such enterprise exists on Ordynacka Street, and its work is of high standard. The prices are slightly lower than at Cepelia. Both in Cepelia and in cooperatives, the prices are prohibitive to an ordinary citizen who must go to an MHD or PDT shop for his or her clothing, and gets it badly fitted and made of low-quality stuff. The percentage of well-dressed women in Warsaw is extremely small, which is quite natural if one considers the prices. Ladies' stockings, Polish-made 'Stylon' and 'Perlon', are cheaper than nylons, but of a very bad quality. One may buy American-made nylons in commission shops in a shop on Chmielna Street [ ] 200 zlotys a pair. Other nylons, not American, are from 150 to 180 zlotys.

e. Bazaars. - Apart from all the shops, there are also open bazaars in which the remnants of 'private initiative' have found refuge. The one in which one may find the greatest variety of clothing articles of all description, secondhand and new sent from abroad, is the 'Rozycki' Bazaar on Praga, [ ] street popularly named 'Ciuchy'. One can buy men's and women's clothing, shoes, cosmetics, US cigarettes and practically everything else at the 'Ciuchy' Bazaar.

#### Leather goods, footwear

2. "These also may be bought in the PDT and MHD as well as in commission shops. In Nowy Swiat there is a very nicely arranged Artistic Industry shop in which beautiful leather goods may be obtained at comparatively moderate prices. For instance, very nice ladies' bags of leather cost only 250 zlotys. Among the shoemakers, private initiative has survived to a greater extent than in other branches of the trade. The following shoemakers still carry on their business on a private basis:

- Jan Kielman, Chmielna Street (not far from Nowy Swiat)
- Filipczak (also in Chmielna Street)
- Sikora (in Aleje Jerozolimskie).

Some private shoemakers have gone one step towards nationalization by forming 'voluntary cooperatives'. Such is, for instance the 'Shoemaking Cooperative named after Jan Kilinski' (Spoldzielnia Obuwnicza im. Jana Kilinskiego), in Nowy Swiat. One may order there a handmade pair of excellent shoes. For such a pair [ ] paid to the 'Kilinski Cooperative' 3,000 zlotys.

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Cosmetics and toilet goods

3. "The use of Polish-made cosmetics is urgently advertized nowadays. A beauty counseling salon (Gabinet Porad Kosmetycznych) was opened in the MDM recently. It is attended by a doctor who tries to persuade the clients to buy Polish cosmetics. However, every woman who can afford it saves up money to buy Western cosmetics. There is a certain sort of snobbery in it, the same as that regarding clothes. Anything Western is urgently sought. The prices of Western cosmetics are as follows:

Lipstick: Max Factor	260	zlotys
" Helena Rubinstein	300	"
Foreign nail polish	120 160	"
" face powder	70 140	"
Face cream, Elizabeth Arden	300	"
Large bottle of Guerlain's perfume	1,500 2000	"

These things may of course be obtained either in MHD commission shops or at 'Ciuchy'. The Polish cosmetics cost as follows:

'Camelia' lipstick (very good quality)	10	zlotys
Face cream 'Miraculum' or 'Lechia' (not bad at all)	about 20	"
Nail polish	2,75	"
Face powder	3 25	"
Polish-made Nivea Cream	3	"
Small bottle of Polish-produced perfume	about 60	"

Although these things are really not bad, Polish women buy them only if they cannot afford 'Western' ones.

Food- Places to Buy

4. "Food is bought in Warsaw in the following places:

- MHD shops
- Shops of various branches of the State trade organization, e.g.:
  - Central Board of Meat Industry (meat and sausages)
  - Fish Center etc.
- 'Delicatessen' shops which sell exclusively luxury foodstuffs.
- Cooperative shops (their cooperative character is only alleged, since they are in fact state-run organizations.) Such is the case of Center of Dairy Cooperatives of Warsaw District (Centrala Spoldzielni Mleczarsko Jajczarskich Okregu Warszawskiego).
- Market places, which are still the domain of private initiative, although more and more state enterprises pitch their stalls there.
- Peasant women who arrive in the city in great numbers, sell their food products going from house to house, usually to establish clients.

Cooperatives

5. "Formerly, retail food trade in Warsaw was in the hands of a cooperative called 'Warsaw Consumers Cooperative' (WSS), in fact fully controlled by the state. Now this enterprise is being gradually liquidated, and its business is being taken over by the MHD. There are less and less WSS shops in Warsaw, and the cooperative transfers most of its business to the stalls in market places.
6. "There are also a few cooperatives of a 'private' sort, i.e. formed by private tradesmen or businessmen who are ~~trying in~~ this way to adapt themselves to the new conditions and avoid expropriation. The ones specially well-known are co-

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operatives formed by some famous pastry-making firms in Warsaw, and connected with public cafes. Such are, for example:

- a. Work Cooperative- Sale of Pastries- of the personnel of Jan Gajewski's firm (on Aleje Jerozolimskie between Krucza and Marszalkowska Streets)
- b. Work Cooperative- Sale of Pastries- in Nowy Swiat, manager Jan Blikle who was, of course, former owner of the cafe. Lately they opened a new branch in Marszalkowska Street.

7. "The prices of food articles are about equal in state shops and in market stalls. Many people, however, prefer to buy at the market, where the food is fresh and looks more attractive; while in shops vegetables usually have a wilted look.

Food Prices

8. "Here are the prices of some food articles:

1 kg of bread	2.50 to 3.50	zl. depending on quality
One bread roll	0.40 to 0.50	"
1 pastry	2.70 to 3.20	"
1 kg of fruit cake	52.00 to 60.00	"
100 gr of tea biscuits	2.40 to 3.80	"
Frozen poultry:		
1 kg goose	22.00	"
" chicken	26.00	"
" turkey	40.00	"
On the market one may buy live poultry, at the following prices:		
A chicken	30.00	60.00 " depending on size
A turkey		400.00 " " " "
A duck	60.00	120.00 " " " "
1 kg of hare (state shop)		17.00 "
Sausages (1 kg)	27.00	60.00 " depending on quality
1 kg of ham		55.00 "
1 kg of butter (best)		60.00 "
1 liter of milk		2.50 "
1 liter of cream	18.00	20.00 "
1 egg	1.15	1.50 "
1 kg of cheese	27.00	40.00 "
1 kg of white cheese	12.00	16.00 "
1 kg of carp		36.00 "

Meat Prices

9. [ ] meat and sausages in the shops of the Meat Center (Central Board of Meat Industry). These shops are very dirty and lack essential elements of hygiene. Clients complain very much about the careless handling of fresh meat by porters and butchers. The prices of different sorts of meat per kg. are as follows (differences depend on the cuts):

Pork	14.00	33.00 "
Minced meat		30.00 "
Roasting beef	22.00	24.00 "
Other kind of beef	18.00	22.00 "
Veal	18.00	24.00 "

Vegetable Prices

10. [ ] vegetables [ ] on the open markets. [ ] one such market on Koszykowa Street, another on Pulawska Street. [ ] on Pulawska Street [ ] there are still many private stalls.

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11. [ ] prices of vegetables and fruit: 50X1-HUM

1 kg of apples	5.00	to	12.00	zlotys
1 kg of apples in winter time up to			40.00	"
1 kg of grapes (from Bulgaria)	15.00	to	18.00	"
1 kg of cherries	13.00	to	18.00	"
1 kg of pears	7.00	to	15.00	"
1 kg of tomatoes	3.00	to	8.00	"
1 kg of carrots			1.05	"
1 kg of celery	5.00	to	7.00	"

12. "In season vegetables and fruit brought fantastic prices. For instance, for a small [head] new spring lettuce, one had to pay 12 zlotys, for 1 kg of first tomatoes 180 zlotys, and for 1 kg of strawberries- 280 zlotys.

Delicatessens

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13. [ ] purchases in the so-called 'delicatessens' shops. These shops cater to 'privileged' classes, i.e. to the group of people whose earnings enable them to buy luxury food (among 'luxury food' coffee, oranges and sardines are listed in Poland).

14. "Delicatessen shops exist in the following places:

- In the Central State Store on Bracka Street.
- At the corner of Marszalkowska and Wilcza Streets.
- In Nowy Swiat, between Warecka and Swietokrzyska Streets.

The prices are as follows: [in Delicatessens in Poland]

Coffee 1 kg (real Brazilian)		400	zlotys
1 dkg [sic] is sold at	40	50	"
A box of sardines	40	50	"
1 kg of oranges		40	"
1 lemon		10	"
1 48-gr tin of Nescafe		110	"
1 kg of English tea		440.00	"
1 kg of cocoa		400	"
1 kg of sweet almonds		140	"
1 kg of pepper	1,200	1,400	"

15. "These luxury foodstuffs may also be obtained by 'private initiative' -through middlemen who buy the contents of parcels sent to people from abroad, and sell them at a profit.

Food Sold by Peasant Women

16. "Peasant women selling foodstuffs privately in Warsaw, constitute a separate chapter in the description of food supplies for the capital. It is known that a peasant who has fulfilled his delivery quotas is entitled to sell the remaining surplus of his products in private transactions. This means that on the surface there is nothing illegal in the activities of these women. The fact is, however, that very often they also deal with the distribution of foodstuffs which they are not legally entitled to sell, for instance meat from cattle which has been slaughtered clandestinely. Thus, militiamen and plain-clothesmen every day have to deal in Warsaw's railway stations with peasant women carrying loads of sacks and milk-cans, trying to find out if they are bringing in anything illegal. Sometimes a woman gets caught in smuggling of forbidden goods, but generally this is rather a losing battle on the

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part of the police because the women do not yield ground easily and can usually talk their way out of arrest.

17. "The prices charged by these peasant women are about the same as shop prices. Sometimes they are higher, but the housewives who can afford it pay these higher prices willingly because the quality of products is much better. The eggs are certainly quite fresh and the milk is unskimmed. The peasant women charge three to four zlotys for one liter of milk and up to 22 zlotys for a liter of cream; eggs cost about 1½ zloty a piece, but this difference is equalled by the advantage of buying better food.
18. "It is characteristic that the meat which these women sell illegally is usually a few zlotys cheaper per one kg than meat in state butcher shops. This is because the state trade organization draws a profit of about 100% from the sale of meat while the peasants are quite satisfied with earning some 30% for all their risk."

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